

Bridge Program Function and Performance Measures

The goal of the Bridge Program is to preserve the structural integrity of all bridges that the Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOTE) maintains so that they are safe. DOTE established the following performance measures to track progress towards accomplishing this objective.

1. Bridge Program personnel will annually inspect all bridges on, over, or under public streets within the City of Cincinnati (excluding bridges inspected by ODOT) and submit an annual bridge condition report, in compliance with the Ohio Revised Code, Section 723.54.

During the 2008 bridge inspection cycle, DOTE bridge inspection personnel inspected all 225 bridges requiring inspection. The results of those inspections are in the report which is available in the Clerk of Council's Office.

2. Bridge Program personnel will develop, request funding, program, and manage bridge maintenance, repair, and replacement work so as to maintain a Weighted Average Bridge Rating of 6 or better for bridges maintained by the Department of Transportation and Engineering. A bridge General Appraisal rating of 6 represents a "Satisfactory" condition.

Based on the 2008 bridge inspection cycle, the Weighted Average Bridge Rating is 7.21 for City (DOTE) Bridges and 6.29 for County Bridges.

3. Bridge personnel will work so that no less than 95% of City (DOTE) bridges are open with no load restrictions. This indicates that the bridge is at least in "fair" condition, meaning that all primary structural elements are sound.

Based on the 2008 bridge inspection cycle, 98% or 60 out of 61 City (DOTE) bridges are open with no load restrictions.

Bridge Conditions

The individual bridge ratings for all 61 City (DOTE) bridges and all 26 County bridges are shown in tabular fashion elsewhere on this site. A summary of the bridge ratings for all 225 inspected bridges is also shown in tabular form elsewhere. The Weighted Average Bridge Rating for both City (DOTE) bridges and County bridges from 1987 to 2008 is shown in graphical form as well.

As indicated on the graph, the condition of both City (DOTE) bridges and County bridges has shown general improvement over the last twenty years. The current weighted average bridge rating for City (DOTE) bridges is 7.21. This is the sixteenth consecutive year that the Weighted Average Bridge Rating for City (DOTE) bridges was greater than 6. The current Weighted Average Bridge Rating for County bridges within the city limits is 6.29.

Change in Average Bridge Conditions Over the Past Year

The slight increase in the Weighted Average Bridge Rating for City (DOTE) Bridges that occurred this year (from 7.16 in 2007 to 7.21 in 2008) was the result of the following two changes:

- 1) The condition rating of the Burns Street Ramp over Railroad was not included in the ratings this year as construction of the replacement structure is not yet complete, nor open to traffic, due to the staging of construction on the Eighth Street Viaduct rehabilitation project. The structure was therefore not inspected or rated.
- 2) The Baymiller Street Pedestrian Bridge with a rating of 5 (Fair condition) was removed from the inventory as the bridge was demolished.

The increase in the Weighted Average Bridge Rating for County Bridges that occurred this year (from 5.98 in 2007 to 6.29 in 2008) was the result of the following two changes:

- 1) The condition rating of the Eighth Street Viaduct was increased from a rating of 3 (Serious Condition) to a rating of 5 (Fair condition) due to extensive and on-going rehabilitation of the structure. It is expected the rating will increase one or two more points once the rehabilitation is complete.
- 2) The rating for the Eighth Street Bridge west of the Eighth Street Viaduct was increased from a rating of 5 (Fair condition) to a rating of 9 (As Built condition) as the bridge was replaced with a new structure.